



## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING

### MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Location: Senate Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover  
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157



#### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bernie Pankowski, Chairman  
David Russell, Vice Chair  
Eric Burnley, Sr.  
Bill Baker, Sr. (*Absent*)  
Ronald Horton (*Absent*)  
Rick Carlisle (*Absent*)  
Clark Evans (*Absent*)  
Sen. Gerald W. Hocker  
Rep. Ronald E. Gray

#### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark  
Stew Michels  
Karen Bennett  
David Saveikis, Director

#### PUBLIC

3 Attendees

#### **Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks**

**Chairman Pankowski** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Approval of minutes from April 9, 2019 meeting**

The Council moved to accept the April meeting minutes. Motion made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Senator Hocker. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 3. Preview of new DNREC ePermitting system for the purchase of fishing licenses – Karen McNamara, DTL, and Vanguard, DNREC's contractor,** gave an overview of the new ePermitting system and associated license sales platform under development and demonstrated how to create an account and purchase a recreational fishing license. The new ePermitting system will be accessible through computer, tablet and mobile phone, including Apple devices, to obtain fishing licenses, boat fishing licenses and Fisherman Information Network (FIN) numbers. This new license sales platform is scheduled to be available as soon as January 2020 for online and Division of Fish & Wildlife licensing desk use, followed soon thereafter at license sales agents. Similar sales platforms are being developed for commercial fishing licenses, hunting and trapping licenses and boat registrations.

**Agenda Item 4. Update on current, approved, and potential construction projects – John Clark, Fisheries Administrator,** briefed the Council on ongoing and planned fishing access construction projects. The upgraded Millsboro Pond boat ramp, which will include an improved single lane boat ramp, new courtesy dock expanded parking area and new lighting at a cost of \$475,000, will be completed by the end of November. The MOA with the City of Wilmington for reconstruction of the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Boat Ramp in Wilmington has been signed and there is approximately \$850,000 in Athos environmental damage settlement funds that should be released in early 2020 for the Division of Fish & Wildlife to reconstruct this ramp. Other planned projects discussed for 2020 were the Massey's Landing bulkhead repair; new ramps, courtesy docks and parking lot improvements at both Garrisons Lake and Wagamons Pond; and repairs to the foundation of the Port Mahon boat ramp.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Follow up from previous meeting:**

- a. **Recreational Fishing License Plate – Director Saveikis** stated that to date, 88 recreational fishing license plates have sold, bringing in over \$7,000 in

revenue to the Division. Of those sold, roughly 65% were salt water and 35% freshwater, closely matching the ratio of saltwater and freshwater anglers in Delaware. Information on the license plates will be printed in the 2020 fishing guide and flyers will be posted at the Division of Fish & Wildlife licensing desk and license sales agents.

- b. **Dobbinsville Fishing Pier – Mr. Clark** stated that an easement is under development between the Trustees of New Castle Commons and the City of New Castle, with this easement needed for the City of New Castle to enter into an MOA with the Division of Fish & Wildlife for construction of the pier. Design and engineering of the pier is anticipated to begin in 2020 after finalizing the MOA with the City of New Castle.

**Agenda Item 6. Revision of Council Bylaws – Council,** Mr. Clark summarized the revisions made to the Council bylaws, which were sent to all Councilors prior to the meeting, necessitated by the 2019 Delaware Code changes pertaining to the composition and function of the Council. Discussion about the revised bylaws focused on the Council seat reserved by the revised Code for the Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman Association. The Council moved to approve the revised bylaws. Motion made by Mr. Burnley and seconded by Senator Hocker. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Public comments**

No public comments.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Council,**

- Update on current and future project funds.
- Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Ending remarks and adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hoover  
Recording Secretary